

## **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

The Board of Supervisors, like any deliberative body, must keep order and decorum in its public meetings, and also permit and encourage the public to participate in the deliberations of the Board. In the past that balancing act has been very easy. The public may speak on an unlimited number of items of relevance, and they have done so in an orderly manner, even when the content of their speech is highly critical of the Board.

Over the last several months, it has become clear that a certain pattern of conduct can be disruptive to the Board and there is no easy way to stop it. Specifically, holding a very large number of items week after week disrupts the orderly completion of agenda items and makes a mockery of the process of addressing the Board. In fact, this pattern of conduct takes away from the rights of others who legitimately want to address the Board on matters of interest to them.

The Board understands that the public has concerns about limiting anyone's right to speak, and the Board shares that concern. For that reason, the Board has done and will continue to do everything possible to preserve the public's right to speak and to make the process meaningful. Every person should have the right to engage the Board on relevant items and the content of speech should never be curtailed or obstructed. Moreover, in reaction to the bad behavior of a few, the Board must avoid the temptation to create rules that would restrict the rights of the hundreds of people who speak before the Board in an orderly and productive way. Thus, as a first step, the Board should simply give notice to the public that this pattern of conduct—holding an excessive number of items week after week—is disorderly and disruptive. If the public on its own, like it has done in the past, takes it upon itself to be respectful of the process, the Board will not be forced into taking steps—none of which would be simple or perfect—in order to gain control of the meeting process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles that when someone engages in a pattern of conduct where they hold an excessive number of items week after week it interferes with the orderly course of the meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors requests that the public respect its process and not engage in this pattern of conduct.

The foregoing resolution was on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2004, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which so Board acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS  
Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board  
of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles

By

  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
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